Construction of Military Station at Una, H.P.

†1408. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Western Command Head Quarter of army, Chandimandir has requested Himachal Pradesh Government to hand over the 790 acre land chosen in Una district to army so as to set up a military station there;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has approved the handing over of said land; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Himachal Pradesh Government had indicated its willingness to offer land in Una to the Army in two pockets separated by a strip of land. The Army Authorities while accepting the offer in principle, for locating their units and establishments, requested the State Government to offer land in one pocket, keeping in view the security considerations. The State Government has, therefore, indicated 790 acres of land in Una. Final decision in this regard will be taken after examination about the suitability of land by the board of officers.

Release of defence land to three Hamlets of 108 Bazaar, Secunderabad

1409. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make all the civilian occupied leased lands of more than a century old as Free-hold;

(b) whether Government has finalised the sanction of release of defence land to three hamlets, residents of 108 Bazaar, Secunderabad Cantonment in exchange of alternate land as promised by Andhra Pradesh Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) About 115 acres of land out of GLR Sy. No. 442 was acquired for Army use, where some hutments in three pockets exist in general area of 108 Bazaar, Secunderabad Cantonment. The requisite acquisition cost of Rs. 1,24,27,187/- has already been paid to the State Government. This includes the acquisition cost of Rs. 1,37,445/- in respect of land measuring 1 acre and 07 guntas, where these hutment dwellers are in existence, and Rs. 3900/- as shifting charges @ Rs. 100/- per unit. It is now the responsibility of the State Government to rehabilitate the hutment dwellers to an alternate site.

Modernised training for Armed Forces

1410. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to slash the strength of the Armed Forces, as was planned a few years back;

(b) whether Government has started a programme for providing latest sophisticated arms and ammunition to the Armed Forces; and

(c) whether training of Armed Forces has been modernised keeping in view the changed role of forces *i.e.*, defending the borders; curbing of militancy and insurgency?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has not taken any decision to slash the strength of Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Induction of latest sophisticated arms and ammunition in the Armed Forces is a continuous and on-going process as a part of modernization programme. There is no change in the role of the Armed Forces. However, the training of Armed Forces is continuously monitored, reviewed and modernized by enhancing use of electronic and computerized equipment and training aids like simulators and computer based training packages.